

Walterboro City Council

Regular Meeting

City Hall

May 5, 2026

Minutes

A Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at 6:15 P.M., with Mayor James Broderick presiding.

Present: Joined in the meeting were: Mayor James Broderick, Councilmembers: Spencer Witkin, Carl Brown, Paul Siegel, Judy Bridge, Ladson Fishburne, and Jimmy Syfrett. City Manager Jeff Molinari, City Attorney Brown McLeod, City Clerk Adrienne Nettles, Main Street Manager/Tourism Director Patricia Fleming, Pastor JaDon Buckner, and the Forest Hills Elementary Choir led by Taylor Fussell.

Call to Order:

With the above-mentioned Councilmembers present. Mayor Broderick called the meeting to order. Pastor JaDon Buckner, Walterboro Christian Center gave the invocation. Forest Hills Elementary Choir led the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag and sang The Star-Spangled Banner.

Public Input on Agenda Items:

There was no public input on agenda items.

Presentations:

1. Desiree Fragoso, Field Service Manager, Municipal Association of South Carolina – 2026 South Carolina Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government Honor Roll.

Ms. Fragoso stated, Mr. Mayor and members of City Council, thank you for having me here tonight. I am honored to be back again to present you with an award. Not many cities and towns across the state are all graduates of the Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government program. I am pleased to present you all with the 2026 Honor Roll recognizing that achievement. Congratulations and thank you for all that you do.

Approval of Minutes:

Upon motion of Councilmember Syfrett, Seconded by Councilmember Bridge, the following minutes were approved.

1. Regular Meeting - April 7, 2026
2. Joint City Council-County Council Meeting – March 24, 2026

Old Business:

There was no old business to conduct.

New Business:

1. **Ordinance # 2026-01**, AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 AND MATTERS RELATING THERETO (Introduction and First Reading).

Councilmember Bridge stated I would like to congratulate Jeff, our City Manager and his staff, for getting this budget put together. The budget presented challenges with inflation and rising gas/diesel costs. The following is our budget summary: \$15,741,125 is the total city budget. That is broken down in \$9,766,190 for the General Fund budget, and \$5,974,935 in the Enterprise Fund. There is no ad valorem tax increase. Business license increase of 20 cents per \$1,000 of revenue. There is no water or sewer rate increase. Property and causality insurance increased by 11.4%. Workers Compensation insurance increased by 17.2%. The PEBA health insurance employer rate portion will decrease in January of 2027 by 8.3%. There is no increase in health insurance premiums for employees. The General Obligation Bond for \$1.1 million, which is 4 mills will be used to fund the following: Boardwalk Replacement Project - \$800,000, Bill Young Park - \$175,656, and Improvements to the Citizen Services Building - \$74,343. Bond cost is \$50,000. There is a proposed 1% cost of living adjustment for city employees.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated I am going to go through all the different departments in the General Fund and Enterprise Fund.

Mayor and City Council

- Status Quo.

City Manager

- Status Quo.

Finance

- Status Quo.

Public Works

- Purchase of new service truck with lease purchase
- Purchase of a new dump body truck for yard debris with a lease purchase

Planning and Development

- \$25,000 allocated for demolition of substandard properties.
- Adding back \$16,862 for Code Enforcement software.

Police

- Status Quo.

Judicial

- Moved Prosecutor from Mayor and Council budget to Judicial.

Fire

- Status Quo.

Parks

- Status Quo.

Tourism

- Adding back \$33,000 for redesign of the city's website.

Wildlife Center

- Status Quo.

Water

- Status Quo.

Utilities Support

- Status Quo.

Sanitation

- Status Quo.

Sewer Support

- Status Quo.

Motion: Councilmember Bridge; Seconded by Councilmember Siegel

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

2. **Ordinance # 2026-02**, AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY ENTERPRISE FUND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 AND MATTERS RELATING THERETO (Introduction and First Reading).

Motion: Councilmember Bridge; Seconded by Councilmember Brown

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

3. **Ordinance # 2026-03**, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WALTERBORO, SOUTH CAROLINA, A SOUTH CAROLINA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, TO INCLUDE CHANGES TO CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE VIII BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS (Introduction and First Reading).

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of Council that we need to update our Code of Ordinance to reflect boards and commissions that are no longer active. Just to give an example, the City Appearance Board is now Keep Walterboro Beautiful. There are several commissions that are no longer active such as the Great Swamp Sanctuary Commission. We also made a change to reflect elections. We used to hold city elections on the last Tuesday in May in odd number years. Our elections are now held in November of odd number years for the mayor's appointments. We are just doing some house cleaning and Boards and Commissions are a logical place to start, and we will continue to make updates.

Motion: Councilmember Witkin; Seconded by Councilmember Fishburne

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

4. **Resolution # 2026-R-06**, A RESOLUTION TO DECLARE MAY 3-9, 2026, AS "PROFESSIONAL MUNICIPAL CLERKS WEEK IN SOUTH CAROLINA" TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS THAT MUNICIPAL CLERKS MAKE TO CITIES AND TOWNS IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Motion: Councilmember Brown; Seconded by Councilmember Bridge

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

5. A PROCLAMATION TO DESIGNATE MAY 2026 AS NATIONAL TENNIS MONTH.

Michelle Strickland with the Walterboro Tennis Association stated we have two events coming and they are free to the community. We would like to thank the city for letting us use the courts.

Motion: Councilmember Fishburne; Seconded by Councilmember Bridge

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

6. A request from Coastal Empire Mental Health/SCDMH to hang Mental Health Awareness Ribbons on street posts in front of businesses on Washington Street, North Walter Street, North Lucas Street, and North Memorial Avenue for the month of May.

Motion: Councilmember Brown; Seconded by Councilmember Siegel

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

Committee Reports:

1. City Improvement Committee, Chairman Ladson Fishburne.

Ladson Fishburne stated I reported that we would see an uptake in the grass cases. 60% of those cases were closed quickly. The system that we have now is stable, we know how to get some of these cases closed quickly. The focus now is going to be on more complicated cases and getting those closed. The team is working hard to get things done quickly.

2. Walterboro-Colleton County Airport Commission, Jimmy Syfrett.

Jimmy Syfrett stated the annual T-hanger inspections were conducted by the airport manager on April 17th. All hangers are in great shape and in compliance with the airport rules. The street survival driver training day for CCHS teenagers approved by the FAA and sponsored by the S.C. Region of the SCCA will take place November 7th. The Forestry Taxiway rehab has been completed. The airport extends thanks to the SC Forestry Commission and State Aeronautics for funding this project. Opterra will be conducting annual storm and water drainage vegetation management, airfield lighting ant control, and vegetation spraying along the perimeter fencing this week. This work is funded at a rate of 75% by state Aeronautics through its vegetation management program. S.C. State University conducted a 4-day training workshop in the conference room at the airport last week to instruct commercial business owners how to use drones.

3. Budget Committee, Chairperson Judy Bridge.

Judy stated we just did the first reading of the budget and second reading will be next month in June. July 1st beings the new fiscal year 2026-2027.

4. Keep Walterboro Beautiful, Chairman Dana Cheney.

Mr. Cheney was not in attendance, and no other committee member was present to give a report.

5. Main Street Steering Committee, Patricia Fleming

Patricia stated each year we are required by Main Street America to identify strengths and opportunities. Last week we met with Main Street America to go over our 2025 assessment and discuss next steps for this year. We have three areas that we are going to focus on in the next 60-90 days. Hopefully this will bring us closer to becoming an accredited Main Street Program.

City Manager's Report:

There was nothing to report.

A motion was made to go into Executive Session by Councilmember Fishburne, seconded by Councilmember Bridge. Mayor Broderick explained that City Council would be going into Executive Session to discuss Contractual Matter-Hotel Feasibility Study, Personnel Matters: Public Safety Committee, Appointment to Planning Commission, and City Manager Contract.

Executive Session:

1. Contractual Matter – Hotel Feasibility Study.
2. Personnel Matters:
 - a. Public Safety Committee
 - b. Appointment to Planning Commission
 - c. City Manager Contract

A motion to come out of Executive Session was made by Councilmember Witkin, seconded by Councilmember Fishburne, all in favor, motion carries.

Open Session:

A motion to appoint Stephaine Drawdy to the Municipal Planning Commission to fill Jimmy Syfrett's unexpired term was made by Councilmember Syfrett, seconded by Councilmember Brown.

There being no further business to consider, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Brown, seconded by Councilmember Bridge, and passed unanimously. Mayor Broderick adjourned the meeting at 7:50 P.M. Notice of the meeting was distributed with the agenda packet, to all local media, posted on City Hall bulletin board and posted on the City's website at least twenty-four hours prior to meeting time.

Respectfully,

Adrienne Nettles
City Clerk

Approved: June 2, 2026